

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 (**Canceled**)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) An ~~The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 1 in which for~~ performing recording or reading of data on an optical disc, the optical disc apparatus comprising:

a laser pickup operable to irradiate laser light onto the optical disc;

a control means for performing a play control which makes the laser pickup follow a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc after a recording of data is completed, seek a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area, and repeat the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued; and there is provided

a detection means for detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or detecting a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area, and wherein

the control means controls the laser pickup to so that it perform a hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, when the detection means detects the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein in ~~in~~ which the control means performs a control of switching of a rotation speed of the optical disc at the hold tracking.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein in ~~in~~ which when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claims 6 and 7 (**Canceled**)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A ~~The method for controlling an optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 6 which detects having a laser pickup for recording or reading data by irradiating laser light onto an optical disc, the method comprising:~~

following a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc with the laser pickup after a recording of data is completed;

seeking a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area;

repeating the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued;

detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time in the first step, when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area; and which performs

performing a the-hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, in the second step when the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area is detected in the first step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 8, ~~in which further comprising switching a the rotation speed of the optical disc is switched in the second step at the hold tracking.~~

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 8, ~~in which further comprising~~ when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step, interrupting the detection is interrupted immediately.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 4, ~~wherein in which~~ when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) An ~~The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 2 in which there is provided for performing recording or reading of data on an optical disc, the optical disc apparatus comprising:~~

a laser pickup operable to irradiate laser light onto the optical disc;

a control means for performing a play control which makes the laser pickup follow a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc after a recording of data is completed, seek a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area, and repeat the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued; and

a detection means for detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or detecting a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area, wherein

the head of the predetermined area is in a neighborhood of a position where the recording operation is completed, and

the control means controls the laser pickup ~~to so that it~~ perform a hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, when the detection means detects the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein in ~~in~~ which the control means performs a control of switching of a rotation speed of the optical disc at the hold tracking.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein in ~~in~~ which when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein in ~~in~~ which when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means

interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 9, ~~in which further comprising~~ when receiving ~~the~~ next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step~~, ~~interrupting~~ the detection ~~is interrupted immediately~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method for controlling ~~an~~ the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 7 which detects ~~having a laser pickup for recording or reading data by irradiating laser light onto an optical disc, the method comprising:~~

~~following a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc with the laser pickup after a recording of data is completed;~~

~~seeking a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area;~~

~~repeating the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued:~~

~~detecting a the consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or a the consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time in the first step, when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area; and which performs~~

~~performing a the hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, in the second step when the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area is detected, in the first step~~

~~wherein the head of the predetermined area is in a neighborhood of a position where the recording operation is completed.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 17, ~~in which further comprising switching a the rotation speed of the optical disc is switched in the second step at the hold tracking.~~

Claim 19 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 18, ~~in which further comprising~~ when receiving ~~the~~ next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step, interrupting~~ the detection ~~is interrupted immediately.~~

Claim 20 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 17, ~~in which further comprising~~ when receiving ~~the~~ next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step, interrupting~~ the detection ~~is interrupted immediately.~~